

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application; Claims 4 and 9 were previously canceled; Claims 3, 5-8, and 12-14 are amended by the present amendment; and Claims 15 and 16 are new. Support for the amendment and new claims are found at least in the originally filed claims. Thus, no new matter is added and no new issues are presented for review.

Initially, Applicants respond to the request for an IDS Form 1449 to include the list of related cases. In response, Applicants assert that the list of related cases filed on November 17, 2005, was filed in accordance with the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 dated September 21, 2004. Accordingly, the list of related cases is in compliance with the waiver. Therefore, Applicants ask that the related cases be considered as related cases.

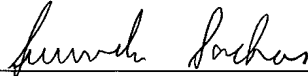
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3-13 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as improper multiple dependent claims and Claims 1 and 2 were indicated as allowed. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the objection of Claims 3-14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for having improper multiple dependencies, Applicants have amended Claims 3, 5-8, and 12-14 to remove the improper multiple dependencies. Accordingly, the objection is believed to have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 3-14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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